Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A composition for treating or preventing arthritis or other degenerative disease, said composition comprising one or more polypeptides having at least 80% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 and having an amino acid length of less than 250 amino acids in combination with a physiological acceptable carrier, wherein the polypeptide comprises one or more polypeptide fragments selected from:

(a) KSVSFSYKG (SEQ ID NO: 2);
(b) KIMIGVERS (SEQ ID NO: 3);
(c) RIESLPIKPRG (SEQ ID NO: 5);
(d) KHWSIWQIQDSSGKE (SEQ ID NO: 6);
(e) RIGQDDLPGFDLISQFQIDKA (SEQ ID NO: 7);
(f) RHLYPNGLPEEYSFLTTFRM (SEQ ID NO: 8);
(g) KGLDGSLQTAAFSNLPSLFDSQWHKI (SEQ ID NO: 9);
(h) RSSATLFVDCNRI [SEQ ID NO: 11]; and
(i) KLGNNVDFRI (SEQ ID NO: 4).

30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight of:

a) less than 30,000 Da, or
b) less than 30,000 Da and greater than or equal to 10,000 Da.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein the polypeptide has identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 that is:

a) at least 85%;
b) at least 90%; or

c) 100%.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing tolerance to at least one antigenic component of cartilage in an individual, the method comprising administering to the individual the composition of claim 29, wherein said administering induces said tolerance.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having a molecular weight of:

a) less than 30,000 Da, or

b) less than 30,000 Da and greater than or equal to 10,000 Da.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 that is:

a) at least ~~80~~85%;

b) at least 90%; or

c) 100%.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a polypeptide ~~fragments~~comprising a fragment selected from:

(a) ~~KSVSFSYKG (SEQ ID NO: 2)~~residues 1-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(b) ~~KIMIGVERS (SEQ ID NO: 3)~~residues 6-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) ~~KLGNNVDFRI [SEQ ID NO: 4]~~residues 6-192 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(d) ~~RIESLPIKPRG (SEQ ID NO: 5)~~residues 6-186 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(e) ~~KIHWSIWQIQDSSGKE (SEQ ID NO: 6)~~residues 6-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(f) ~~RIGQDDLPGFDLISQFQIDKA (SEQ ID NO: 7)~~residues 6-73 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(g) ~~RHLYPNGLPEEYSFLTTFRM (SEQ ID NO: 8)~~residues 85-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

~~(h) KGLDGSLQTAAFSNLPSLFDSQWHKI (SEQ ID NO: 9); and~~

~~(i) RSSATLFVDCNRI [SEQ ID NO: 11).~~

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the individual is a naive individual.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said administering treats or prevents a degenerative condition.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the degenerative condition or disease is arthritis or a musculoskeletal degenerative condition.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the degenerative condition or disease is rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, disc degeneration, or osteoporosis.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having a molecular weight of:

a) less than 30,000 Da, or

b) less than 30,000 Da and greater than or equal to 10,000 Da.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 that is:

a) at least ~~80~~85%;

b) at least 90%; or

c) 100%.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a polypeptide ~~fragment~~comprising a fragment selected from:

(a) ~~KSVSFSYKG (SEQ ID NO: 2)~~residues 1-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(b) ~~KIMIGVERS (SEQ ID NO: 3)~~residues 6-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) ~~KLGNNVDFRI [SEQ ID NO: 4]~~residues 6-192 of SEQ ID NO:14;
(d) ~~RIESLPIKPRG (SEQ ID NO: 5)~~residues 6-186 of SEQ ID NO:14;
(e) ~~KHWSIWQIQDSSGKE (SEQ ID NO: 6)~~residues 6-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;
(f) ~~RIGQDDLPGFDLISQFQIDKA (SEQ ID NO: 7)~~residues 6-73 of SEQ ID NO:14; and
(g) ~~RHLYPNGLPEEYSFLTTFRM (SEQ ID NO: 8)~~residues 85-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;
~~(h) KGLDGSLQTAAFSNLPSLFDSQWHKI (SEQ ID NO: 9); and~~
~~(i) RSSATLFVDCNRI [SEQ ID NO: 11).~~

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the individual is a naive individual.

51-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said administering treats or prevents an autoimmune response in the individual to at least one antigenic component of cartilage.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having a molecular weight of:

a) less than 30,000 Da, or
b) less than 30,000 Da and greater than or equal to 10,000 Da.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 that is:

a) at least ~~80~~85%;
b) at least 90%; or
c) 100%.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the administered composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a polypeptide comprising a fragment selected from:

(a) ~~KSVSFSYKG (SEQ ID NO: 2)~~residues 1-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(b) ~~KIMIGVERS (SEQ ID NO: 3)~~residues 6-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) ~~KLGNNVDFRI [SEQ ID NO: 4]~~residues 6-192 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(d) ~~RIESLPIKPRG (SEQ ID NO: 5)~~residues 6-186 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(e) ~~KHWSIWQIQDSSGKE (SEQ ID NO: 6)~~residues 6-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(f) ~~RIGQDDLPGFDLISQFQIDKA (SEQ ID NO: 7)~~residues 6-73 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(g) ~~RHLYPNGLPEEYSFLTTFRM (SEQ ID NO: 8)~~residues 85-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

~~(h) KGLDGSLQTAAFSNLPSLFDSQWHKI (SEQ ID NO: 9); and~~

~~(i) RSSATLFVDCNRI [SEQ ID NO: 11)~~.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said administering induces cartilage formation in the individual.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having a molecular weight of:

a) less than 30,000 Da, or

b) less than 30,000 Da and greater than or equal to 10,000 Da.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the administered composition comprises one or more polypeptide fragment having identity to SEQ ID NO: 14 that is:

a) at least ~~80~~85%;

b) at least 90%; or

c) 100%.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the composition comprises ~~one or more~~ a polypeptide comprising a fragment selected from:

(a) ~~KSVSFSYKG (SEQ ID NO: 2)~~residues 1-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(b) ~~KIMIGVERS (SEQ ID NO: 3)~~residues 6-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) ~~KLGNNVDFRI [SEQ ID NO: 4]~~residues 6-192 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(d) ~~RIESLPIKPRG (SEQ ID NO: 5)~~residues 6-186 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(e) ~~KHWSIWQIQDSSGKE (SEQ ID NO: 6)~~residues 6-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(f) ~~RIGQDDLPGFDLISQFQIDKA (SEQ ID NO: 7)~~residues 6-73 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(g) ~~RHLYPNGLPEEYSFLTTFRM (SEQ ID NO: 8)~~residues 85-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

~~(h) KGLDGSLQTAAFSNLPSLFDSQWHKI (SEQ ID NO: 9); and~~

~~(i) RSSATLFVDCNRI [SEQ ID NO: 11)~~.

64-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 29, wherein the polypeptide comprises a fragment selected from:

(a) residues 1-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(b) residues 6-245 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) residues 6-192 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(d) residues 6-186 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(e) residues 6-185 of SEQ ID NO:14;

(f) residues 6-73 of SEQ ID NO:14; and

(g) residues 85-185 of SEQ ID NO:14.

68-69. (Cancelled)